



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1897-04-18

**Letter from John Muir to [Theodore P.] Lukens, 1897 Apr 18.**

John Muir

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commending my forestry article  
he is in favor of hunting being permitted in the Reserves & Parks at  
certain seasons for food

Martinez, Apr. 18, 1897.  
advocates however, Game Refuge where game can be safe  
My dear Lukens,

I'm glad the bank is off

Your back so now you can go free in the woods.

used by Lawrence

Your forest article is a good one, so good you  
must write some more, & get others stirred up to  
do likewise. Also write & get others to write to  
the Senators & Sec of the Interior & make their  
lives wretched until they do what is right by the  
woods. Only thus by making public opinion can  
they be made to mind.

I think with you that some changes  
should be made in the regulations & rules governing  
the parks & reservations, allowing hunting at certain  
seasons for food. We are all natural hunters like  
cats with killing instincts derived from hunting  
ancestors, & I suppose only in heaven is there  
no bloodshed. Still I can't help feeling that there  
should be a good big wild place set apart in  
each park or reservation as a safe refuge for the  
wild birds & beasts in which no gun should ever be  
fired - sort of wild beast paradises. When the time  
for action on this question comes up I shall be glad to help you.  
I have just sent off a long article on the forests for Harpers  
Weekly. Remember me to Mrs Lukens & the family with love to Lotie.  
Ever yours John Muir